

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region

Executive Officer Summary Report
May 8, 2002

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: Presentation on the status of water and wastewater infrastructure improvement projects in Tijuana and Tecate, Mexico.

PURPOSE: Informational presentation only.

DISCUSSION: The North American Development Bank (NadBank) and its sister institution, the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC), were created by the United States and Mexico in a joint effort to promote environmental infrastructure development related to water supply, wastewater treatment and municipal solid waste management in the border region. The NadBank's role is to facilitate financing for the development, execution and operation of environmental infrastructure projects that have been certified by the BECC. The NadBank also administers the Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF), a grant program funded by the USEPA to complement its loan and guaranty program.

Over the last two years, the BECC has certified several projects for NadBank financing and BEIF assistance along the California-Baja California border region. These include (1) a \$38.5 million project for the rehabilitation of the sewer collection system in Tijuana, (2) a \$6.0 million project for the rehabilitation and expansion of the San Antonio de los Buenos Treatment Plant in Tijuana, and (3) a \$8.2 million project for improvement and expansion of the water and wastewater systems in Tecate.

In addition, the NADBank will provide \$500,000 to the State Commission for Public Services of Tijuana (CESPT) to fund an institutional capacity-building study as part of the development of a Master Plan of potable water and wastewater infrastructure for Tijuana and Playas de

Rosarito. The Master Plan will develop short, mid and long-range infrastructure projects for the Tijuana/Playas de Rosarito area. These projects will be developed with BECC certification in mind, including compliance with sustainable development criteria.

In 2000, additional loans from the Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund were also approved for environmental infrastructure projects in Tijuana. The projects involve adding and/or widening wastewater collection lines and the construction of four small, decentralized treatment plants in Tijuana for a total cost of \$96.8 million. The Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund was established in the 1960s to provide low-cost loans to developing countries to support Japanese overseas investments.

Lori Saldana, the BECC Advisory Council Co-Chair, will provide a brief overview and status report of the water and wastewater improvement projects currently underway in Tijuana and Tecate, Mexico. Ms. Saldana will also discuss recent changes in the BECC/NadBank organization.

LEGAL CONCERNS:

None

SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS:

- (1) *US EPA Fact Sheet: Tijuana Master Plan For Water and Wastewater Infrastructure.*
- (2) *BECC Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements, Tijuana, Mexico: 2001-2005.*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None